have been drawn up by the Government to save the township from threat of subsidence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) There were about 70 fires in 40 collieries of Jharia Coalfields covering an area of 17.32 sq. Kms. which have been existing since long before nationalisation. The first fire was reported in 1916 in Bhowrah Colliery of this area. The total loss of coal due to old fires in Jharia Coalfields is estimated at about 37 million tonnes since 1916 and total reserves of about 1864 million tonnes are blocked form extraction due to these fires. It is difficult to assess the annual loss but the quantity of coal being lost due to fire is now substantially less than what is was earlier due to the measures being taken to control the fires.

After nationalisation, concerted efforts are being made to control and extinguish these fires. Five have been extinguished through implementation of fire projects. 20 projects covering 42 fires have been sanctioned and are in various stages of implementation. Another six fires have been covered in Mukunda Advance Action Plan. Two project reports dealing with the remaining 17 fires have also been approved by the Board of Directors of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. recently.

An amount of about Rs. 68 crores has been spent for controlling the fires so far. The Jogta project has resulted in a saving of coking coal worth Rs. 560 crores. All these fires are expected to be controlled/extinguished by the end of 8th Plan through the implementation of various projects

Under the fire control projects, the following short and long-term measures are being taken for combating fires:—

(i) Cutting of trenches by heavy earth-moving equipment to isloate fires;

(ii) Filling of developed galleries below ground;

(iii) Hydraulic sand stowing/hydropneumatic stowing;

(iv) Fly ash flushing;

(v) Inert gas injection;

(vi) Water infusion;

(vii) Surface sealing with 'Fautli' cap; and

(viii) Digging of the fires by heavy earth moving equipment.

It is not a fact that thousands of residents is uprooted annually due to fires. Shifting of population from particular areas is being done when such shifting becomes necessary for carrying out fire control operations on the surface or where subsidence of the surface due to underground fires is apprehended. The population shifted due to fires since 1981 is estimated to be about 2400. Coal companies and State Government authorities have advised the residents not to take up construction activities over the areas declared undue to subsidence.

Proposals to detect sickness of industrial units

2034. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to detect the sickness of industrial units at the incipient stage so that corrective measures could be initiated in time;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to detect the sickness of industrial units in the country; and

(c) how will Government help to restore sick units to health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) The financial institutions have been adopting various strategies to detect incipient sickness. These include:

(i) Appointing nominees on Boards of Companies which are showing signs of incipient sickness.

(ii) Intensive monitoring in the case of units which are likely to face problems;

(iii) Periodical inspection/visits and follow up action on the findings of inspection team;

(iv) Scrutiny of progress reports received periodically from assisted concerns; and

(v) Follow-up action on critical information relating to operations, *management etc. of the units reported* by the nominee Directors.

2. The Government have enacted a comprehensive legislation namely. The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. A quasi-judicial body designated as 'The Board for Industrial and Financial 'Construction' (BIFR) has been set up under the Act to deal with the problems of sick industrial companies in an effective manner which has become operational with effect from the 15th May, 1987. According to this Act, "a sick industrial company" means an industrial company (being a company registered for not less than seven years) which has at the end of any financial year accumulated losses equal to or exceeding its entire net worth and has also suffered cash losses in such financial year and the financial year immediately preceding such financial year. However in order to cover those categories of units which do not come under the purview of the Act, the Reserve Bank of India have advised the banks to take necessary remedial measures in respect of industrial units at the stage of 50 per cent erosion of their net worth and such units are termed as weak units to distinguish them from sick industrial companies as defined in the Act.

3. The following are some of the important steps taken by the Government for the revival of sick industrial units:—

(i) The Reserve Bank of India have issued guidelines to the banks for strengthening the monitoring systems and for arresting industrial sickness at the incipient stage so that corrective measures are taken in time.

(ii) The banks have also been directed by the Reserve Bank of India to formulate rehabilitation packages for the revival of potentially viable units. The banks and financial institutions evolve rehabilitation packages for the revival of sick units.

(iii) Reserve Bank of India have also issued guidelines separately to the banks indicating parameters within which banks could grant reliefs and concessions for rehabilitation of potentially viable sick units without reference to RBI, both in the large and small scale sectors.

(iv) Government of India introduced a Margin Money Scheme with a view to supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in reducing the incidence of sickness in the small scale sector. Under the liberalised scheme the maximum amount of assistance per unit available to sick small scale units for rehabilitation has been increased from Rs. 20000 to Rs. 50000.

C-DOT Technology

2035. SHRI SHEO KUMAR MISHRA:

SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA:

SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any developing countries have shown in C-DOT technology; if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Nepal has asked for installation of two rural automatic exchanges for its Capital; and if so, what are the details thereof?